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House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. LATOURETTE].

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 16, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable STEVEN C. LATOURETTE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer: We cry for freedom, O God, so we can use our consciences and practice our best intentions. We are grateful that we can know the gift of liberty to express our personal values and ideals. Yet we confess, O God, that we can use our liberties and freedoms to avoid the responsibilities of caring for each other, of making our own sacrifice so the pain and suffering of others might be eased. O Author of all of life, remind us that we are bound together in this world by the common creation of Your hand, and we are nurtured each day by the unity that we try to share. So teach us to use our personal freedom so we are responsible in ways that promote justice and mercy for us and for every person. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. TIAHRT] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TIAHRT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. McDevitt, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed bills of the following titles in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 104. An act to amend the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982.

S. 522. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose civil and criminal penalties for the unauthorized access of tax returns and tax return information by Federal employees and other persons, and for other purposes.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I call up a privileged resolution (H. Res. 114) and ask for its immediate consideration. The minority has been apprised of the contents.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 114

Resolved, That the following Members be, and they are hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Banking and Financial Services: Mr. Manzullo, Mr. Foley, and Mr. Jones.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TAX RELIEF

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was the filing deadline for Federal taxes and State taxes in Kansas. But tax freedom day in Kansas is actually on May 7. That is the day we finally pay our direct Federal, State, and local taxes, our direct taxes. Some think that is the day when they can quit working for the Government and start to work for themselves. But it is not. Still remaining are indirect taxes, hidden taxes. Nearly 40 cents on a dollar of gasoline, hidden costs in the form of taxes, 28 cents on a dollar loaf of bread, 48 cents on a dollar glass of draft beer, on and on it goes. Hidden taxes buried in the products we use every day, every day. Add those hidden taxes to the direct taxes, and Americans work more than 6 months for the Government and less than 6 months for themselves.

America needs tax relief today, Mr. Speaker.

PRIORITIES FOR WORKING MEN AND WOMEN

(Mr. BONIOR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, America does need tax relief today, but it does not need it for the top 5 percent in this country. The speaker the other day got up and suggested a \$300 billion giveaway to the top 5 percent. Where is it for the rest of the working people in this country?

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret why the Republican leadership refuses to schedule campaign finance reform. The wealthy donors who contributed to the Republican Party want tax breaks. According to an article that was in the Washington Times last week, they have told the Republican leadership

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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